



# **Mid Klamath Watershed Council Orleans**

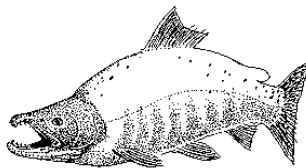
## **Site Handbook**





## **Watershed Stewards Project Mission**

The mission of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project is to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices.



*Sockeye Salmon*



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## Introduction

### Site Description

*Location* Orleans, California

*Agency  
Affiliation* Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC)

*General  
Ecology* Orleans is located along the Klamath River. The Klamath River is the home of fall Chinook, spring Chinook, coho, steelhead, summer steelhead, green sturgeon, lamprey, and freshwater mussels. The landscape is mountainous with mixed conifer and oak woodland vegetation. The mid-Klamath is a fire-adapted landscape. Both lightning and human-caused fires historically played an important role in the ecology of this area and the suppression of fires beginning in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has significantly impacted the landscape.

### Site Duties

*Summary* AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project members will:

- Conduct cooperative Fall Chinook spawning and carcass surveys
- Develop and implement a six-week watershed education curriculum
- Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps
- Coordinate instream and upslope volunteer work days
- Participate in summer steelhead and spring Chinook dives
- Participate in creek mouth enhancement projects
- Participate in coho habitat enhancement assessment and implementation
- Assist with native plant and noxious weed programs
- Assist in implementation of spring and fall prescribed burns
- Work with Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
- Update website
- Attend meetings and conferences
- Assist with summer youth program



## General Calendar of Duties at MKWC Orleans

Month	Location	Site Duties	Work Load	Typical Work Hours
<b>Winter</b>				
January	Field/Office / Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a six-week watershed education curriculum</li> </ul>	Light	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
February	Office / Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a six-week watershed education curriculum</li> </ul>	Moderate	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
March	Field/Office / Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a six-week watershed education curriculum</li> <li>Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps</li> <li>Assist in native plant and noxious weed programs</li> <li>WSP Spring Training</li> </ul>	Moderate	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
<b>Spring</b>				
April	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps</li> <li>Assist in native plant and noxious weed programs</li> <li>Assist with fisheries projects such as creation of off-channel pond habitat</li> <li>Assist with spring burning program</li> </ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
May	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps</li> <li>Assist in native plant and noxious weed programs</li> <li>Assist with fisheries projects such as creation of off-channel pond habitat</li> <li>Assist with spring burning program</li> </ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
June	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps</li> <li>Assist in native plant and noxious weed programs</li> <li>Participate in Creek Mouth Enhancement project</li> <li>Assist with summer youth program</li> <li>WSP Summer Training</li> </ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)



<b>Summer</b>				
July	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor Camp and Red Cap Creek downstream migrant traps</li><li>• Assist in native plant and noxious weed programs</li><li>• Participate in Creek Mouth Enhancement project</li><li>• Participate in Steelhead and Spring Chinook Dives</li><li>• Assist with summer youth program</li></ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
August	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participate in Creek Mouth Enhancement project</li><li>• Assist with summer youth program</li><li>• AmeriCorps exit</li></ul>	Moderate	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
<b>Fall</b>				
October	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AmeriCorps Orientation</li><li>• Conduct Cooperative Fall Chinook Spawning and Carcass Surveys</li><li>• Assist staff with data management</li></ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
November	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct Cooperative Fall Chinook Spawning and Carcass Surveys</li><li>• Assist staff data management</li></ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)
December	Field/Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct Cooperative Fall Chinook Spawning and Carcass Surveys</li></ul>	Busy	8 hour days – 5 days/wk (M-F 9:00-5:30)



## **Description of Site Duties by Season**

### *Winter*

*January through  
March*

Our primary task during this period is education. During this time we visited 3 classrooms in Orleans, 2 classrooms in Happy Camp, 2 classrooms in Seiad Valley, and a classroom in Weitchpec. We visited each classroom for one hour per week, totaling six weeks (with a few extra visits for some classrooms). We covered a variety of topics depending on the age of the students and the requests of the teachers—many students in this area are already very familiar with the basic WSP curriculum, so it was necessary to extend beyond the salmon life cycle and think outside the box. Take a look on the MKWC server for the information covered in past years and talk to the teachers for their input on topics.

For Orleans grades 6-8 we did comparative anatomy and physiology lessons of frogs and salmon in 2010 and geology lessons on 2011. For Orleans 3-5 we spent time on basic ecology focusing on resources, habitats, adaptations and limiting factors. In Orleans K-2, we covered life cycles, symmetry, basic concepts relating to watersheds and water qualities. In all of the classes, we spent one lesson of fire ecology and the effects of fires on fisheries. During this time we participated in prescribed burns and brushpiling and steelhead redd surveys, began working on the rotary screw trap, helped with invasive weed removal and did various office tasks including updating the website.

### *Spring*

*April through  
June*

Our primary task during this period is the rotary screw trap.\* On average we work two to three days a week each on the rotary screw traps located on Red Cap and Camp Creeks. A collaborative project between MKWC and USFS, the traps must be checked daily while they are fishing. During this time our spring training was held. We also participated in prescribed burns, noxious weed removal, the Fish Derby, Bigfoot Birding Day, Klamath Siskiyou Outdoor School (a youth raft and backpacking trip), invasive weed removal, Klamath Trinity Fish Fair, workdays at the Native Plant Garden, coho habitat assessment and did various office tasks.

\*It should be noted that Spring 2010 and 2011 was one of the wettest; it rained straight into June keeping the water levels at record highs in the spring. Our trap schedule was delayed due to high flows and there was an almost non-existent spring burn season.

### *Summer*

*July through  
August*

Our primary task during this period is creek mouth enhancement workdays one to four days a week. We also assisted with noxious weed removal and surveys, including a three-day overnight backpacking trip and a raft trip to look for weeds, helped with the summer youth program which included three weekly raft trips, updated the website, participated in collaborative summer steelhead and spring Chinook dives with a variety of agencies including the USFS and Salmon River Restoration Council, assisted in writing grants.

### *Fall*

*October through  
December*

Our primary tasks during this period are the collaborative Fall Chinook spawner surveys on small tributaries to the Mid Klamath and the Salmon River. We will work three days a week on average with the Forest Service (USFS) and one day a week on the Salmon River with California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). We participated in constructing fire lines and fall prescribed burns and writing grants.



## ISPs and Outreach Events

### ISP Information

There are many ISP opportunities with the youth in the area. Past ISP have included taking the Orleans 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade class on a restoration field trip to Aikens Creek campground, rafting trips with local youth to clean up trash along rivers bars and enhance creek mouths for fish passage. Other ISP opportunities might include a workday at the Karuk Native Plant Garden, or manually enhancing creek mouths for fish passage.

2007's ISP was in collaboration with the organization Friends of the River (FOR). About 30 volunteers floated the Klamath River from Presidio Bar to Stewarts Bar, stopping at Stanshaw Creek and Sandy Bar Creek to do handwork on the creek mouths.

2010 ISP's included a 1.5 day Restoration Tour which included a half-day of rafting with participants helping with creek mouth habitat enhancement and a day of touring restoration sites in Happy Camp. Partners for the tour included Happy Camp Ranger District, Karuk Tribe, and Happy Camp Firesafe Council.

The other ISP was an adult passage workday with the Orleans 6-8 students in the fall. 2011 ISP's included a tree planting for Seiad School 4-8<sup>th</sup> grade class at the Stender Seiad Pond. Another was willow cutting with the Karuk basketweavers to make brush bundles.

### Outreach Notes

Outreach events are plentiful here at MKWC.

#### *Summer Youth Program and Klamath Siskiyou Outdoor School*

The Summer Youth Program takes place throughout the summer and includes raft trips, backpacking trips, and activities at the Panamnik Building. Every Thursday there was an activity held locally, usually within the building, that a community volunteer signed up to lead. Activities included bike maintenance, a cooking class, a field trip to Sandy Bar Ranch, etc. There were several restoration raft trips for different age groups. We would usually have a juvenile salmon identification lesson and work on creek mouths. Part of the summer youth program was the Klamath Siskiyou Outdoor School (KSOS). This was a weeklong trip for teens to learn about ecology and outdoorsmanship. It began with a two day raft trip followed by a three-day backpacking trip in a Wilderness Area. All youth activities were free for participants. The youth program was funded by the McLean Foundation and the Humboldt Area Foundation. Part of the winter season is spent requesting donations for food and gear for KSOS.

#### *Bigfoot Birding Day*

This annual event was formerly put on by MKWC President Tony Hacking, Wildlife Biologist for the Orleans Forest Service, who died a couple of years ago. It is now known as the Tony Hacking Memorial Birding Day. Blythe, owner of Sandy Bar Ranch and MKWC board member, and LeRoy Cyr, USFS Fisheries Biologist and WSP mentor, are leads for the event. Talk to LeRoy about helping to set up for the event. This year it took place the first weekend in May and is always around the same date as the International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). The Bigfoot Birding Day consists of a Friday night slideshow put on by Keith Slauson and a Saturday morning birdwalk. The birdwalk went to two sites, Tommy Horn's pond on Hwy 96 and the mouth of Camp Creek. Coffee and a continental-style breakfast are traditional on Saturday morning to provide fuel before the morning walk.



*Klamath-Trinity  
Fish Fair*

The Klamath-Trinity Fish Fair is a huge environmental education fair for students at Hoopa High School and Trinity Valley, Jack Norton, Orleans and Weitchpec Elementary Schools. The fair is a single day in late May or early June; WSP members and other natural resource professionals lead various watershed/environmental educational activities for the students. The past 2 years students have stayed at their respective schools and presenters split up and went to different schools. Organizing the fair has been the responsibility of the USFS Orleans AmeriCorps members. MKWC AmeriCorps members have helped a small amount with organization, but their only formal responsibility is to be presenters for the fair, which is a mandatory outreach event.

*Klamath Fire  
Ecology  
Symposium*

This was a three-day conference held at the end of April 2008 and 2011. It was a truly amazing and educational event. Over 100 people attended, most of them fire ecology and prescribed fire experts, practitioners and professionals. This is not an annual event, but a similar two-day conference occurred in 2009 to discuss management of the huge wildfires in the area during the summer of 2008.



## **Calendar of Outreach Events for Site / Community**

*Winter*

To Be Determined

*Spring*

Fire ecology Symposium in April  
Bigfoot Birding Days in May  
Salmon Run in May  
Klamath-Trinity Fish Fair in May  
Native Plant Garden workdays  
Klamath River Clean-Up in Klamath  
Salmon Relay Run in May

*Summer*

Klamath Siskiyou Outdoor School in June  
Various restoration raft trips and other summer youth program events

*Fall*

Weaverville Salmon Festival  
Yreka Salmon Festival



## Education

### Education Notes

#### *Curriculum*

Since these are all river schools many of the students have had salmonid and watershed education over and over again. Members may be surprised at how much the students know about basic environmental science, especially the WSP Real Science Curriculum! It will be important to think outside of the box and try to teach new things. Remember to be flexible and have alternate activities available in case the students have been overexposed to the particular activity members have planned. Curriculums of the past have included topics as varied as: Lamprey & Sturgeon, Macro-invertebrates, Fire Ecology, Life Cycles (of all kinds), Other Anadromous Fish, Birds of the Klamath, Native vs. Invasive Plants, Geology, Climate Change, Water Resources and Quality etc.

Members may not have to reinvent the wheel each time – There is a wealth of river-kid-curriculum available through the Forest Service, MKWC and the Karuk Tribe. Before beginning the education season, spend some time combing through the Forest Service archives and the MKWC server. However, reviewing some of the basics is important especially for the younger students.

#### *Class Sizes*

Class sizes may range from 3-25 students. Be prepared to adapt lesson plans to varying age groups and varying attendance.

#### *Beginning Early*

At this particular site it is important to begin the education season very early, hopefully within January. The education season is followed by the downstream migrant trapping (fish trap) season and needs to be wrapping up when the fish traps go in the water. The precise time for this varies but it usually occurs around the middle of March.

#### *Coordinating*

It is a good first step to get in contact with the AmeriCorps at Orleans USFS and Sawyers Bar to establish which placement sites will be working with which schools. Much of this should be completed by the WSP Team Leader before the first day at MKWC but if it is not, it will be important to start early (see the note on *Beginning Early*). Phone and email is not necessarily a reliable form of communication here so certain schools do not ever get in contact with the WSP ed leader and fall through the cracks. Go ahead and approach schools without waiting to be contacted by them. In 2009 MKWC staff set up which classrooms AmeriCorps members were going to work with before members actually arrived. At sites closer to population centers with multiple schools, the WSP Education Team Leader does most of the pre-coordination, but here most of the work is done by the members themselves.

#### *Approaching Schools*

On different years, MKWC AmeriCorps have worked in Orleans, Seiad, Happy Camp and Weitchpec Elementary Schools. Many of the schools do not respond right away to phone calls and letters so it is best to go directly to the teachers when scheduling date, time and curriculum. Most of them will be expecting members and will want to schedule class visits and curriculum right away. Come prepared.

#### *Collaboration*

Other organizations love to collaborate with MKWC and will continue to work with members on watershed education all year long.

Jeanette Quinn is Watershed Education Program Director for the Karuk Tribe. She is really fun to work with and is an excellent resource for educational tools! Talk to her before members start to ensure there isn't too much overlap between the ed activities.

Junction School, in Somes Bar, sometimes organizes collaborative days with MKWC and Orleans Elementary. Get in contact with a teacher or aide there.



## Site / Region Specific Education Resources

### *Forest Service, Orleans*

The Forest Service building, located just a few hundred yards up Ishi Pishi Rd. from the Panamnik Building, partners with MKWC on a number of projects and provides workspace for the USFS Orleans AmeriCorps. In its fisheries department members will find an archive of WSP curriculum that spans back to the program's inception. Look through it for activities and handouts.

In addition to housing, the USFS shares its vehicles with MKWC AmeriCorps. Members can use these as site vehicles during the term. Get in contact with biologist, Leroy Cyr, for driver orientation, which usually occurs right at the beginning of the term.

### *MKWC*

MKWC's server is packed with electronic media and old lesson plans. Take a look at previous years' AmeriCorps Education sections.

MKWC has a large equipment pool that can be used on education. The kids' section and back room contain books and posters on watershed health. There are waders, stream boots, snorkels and yard tools all which can be lent out to kids.

### *MKWC Outdoor Education Program*

MKWC has an actively growing outdoor ed program. The ed program director will be available for advice and benefits from AmeriCorps assistance on raft trips, camping trips, surveys and weed pulls.

### *Native Plant Garden*

Located next to the Karuk Office and Clinic in Orleans is a native plant garden that is kept up by the volunteer efforts of community members. In the past, students have worked in the garden and learned about native ecology. Just a 20 minute walk from downtown Orleans, this spot makes a convenient (albeit often used) field trip site.

### *Klamath Salmon Natural History Library*

This reference library is located in the Panamnik Building and is maintained by MKWC staff. In its collection, members will find information on local history, plant ecology, culture, geology and fire ecology.

### *Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative*

This group produces multimedia works that address the local politics and ecology of the Klamath River Basin. There are many excellent films members can borrow from them including: *Salmon on the Backs of Buffalo*, *Solving the Klamath Crisis*, and the fish-footage-favorite, *Shake Your Onchorhynchus*.

### *Karuk Tribe*

The Karuk tribe has a Watershed Education Program also! Their program coordinator, Jeanette Quinn (jquinn@karuk.us) is often planning outdoor education events for children and is available to work with members on dissections, hikes and scientific demonstrations.

### *Salmon River Restoration Council*

The Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRRC) is an established non-profit. Its programs mirror those of MKWC's. Communicate closely with SRRRC on new fire safety and noxious weed information.

### *Whitman College*

Over the last few years, Whitman College students have established groundbreaking studies on the Klamath River and now spend a portion of their summer in the area doing fieldwork. Talk with them about their research on freshwater mussels and indigenous peoples' food security.

### *Bookmobile*

Can't find the exact book members were looking for? The Bookmobile stops in Orleans at the Panamnik Building once a month. Members can request a book and have it delivered to members at work!



## Local Ecology

### Descriptions of Local Ecology

#### *Klamath River*

Orleans is along the Klamath River, home of fall Chinook, spring Chinook, coho, steelhead, summer steelhead, green sturgeon, lamprey, freshwater mussels and water quality issues.

The following is from Wikipedia about the Klamath River:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klamath\\_River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klamath_River)

The river is considered a prime habitat for Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, steelhead trout, and rainbow trout. Once the third-largest producer of salmon on the West Coast, only a fraction of the river's historic runs remain since the construction of six dams, built between 1908 and 1962. Coho salmon in the Klamath River are listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. In 1963 the largest tributary to the Klamath, the Trinity River, was virtually removed from the Klamath drainage with the completion of the Lewiston and Trinity dams, diverting 90 percent of the Trinity's flow to the Sacramento Valley. Only 150 cubic feet (4.2 m<sup>3</sup>) per second was left to flow to the Klamath. In 1991, a minimum Trinity flow of 340,000 acre feet was established, a minimum annual flow of about 470 cfs.

The possible removal of the dams on the mainstem Klamath has been a controversial issue in the region in recent years. Despite intense lobbying by local Native American tribes, conservationists, and fishermen, the 2004 renewal application by PacifiCorp for another 50-year federal operating licence for the dams did not include any provisions for allowing salmon to return to more than 300 miles (483 km) of former habitat above the dams. In January 2007, however, the federal government ruled that PacifiCorp must equip four dams with fish ladders, a modification which would cost potentially more than \$300 million. PacifiCorp has offered \$300 million to upgrade the JC Boyle fish ladder and proposed trucking fish around the Copco #1 and Iron Gate dams, after having had been denied a licence to build a power generator in Utah. "The fact that the Klamath project is an emissions-free, renewable resource will make it more valuable to our customers in the future and reduce our overall carbon footprint," PacifiCorp President Fehrman said in a statement.

A separate controversy surrounds the use of water in the Upper Klamath Basin for irrigated agriculture, which was temporarily halted in 2001 to protect endangered salmon and lake fish during a severe drought. The federal government, under Interior Secretary Gale Norton, reversed this decision in 2002, and provided full water deliveries to irrigators as the drought continued despite the fact that Klamath area tribes have treaty rights that predate the settlement of the farmers. Norton argued for a "free market" approach by allowing farmers to sell the water to the Native Americans downstream.

According to biologists from the state of California and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the atypical low flow in the river along with high fish return numbers and high water temperatures allowed for a gill rot disease to kill at least 33,000 salmon in September 2002, which died before they could reproduce. The kill was downstream of the Trinity inflow, and the salmon of the Trinity were impacted to a greater degree than the Klamath as the Trinity run was at its peak. The report does mention that the official fish kill estimate of 34,056 is probably quite low and could be only half of the actual loss.

Klamath flows as measured at the river gauge in Keno show a low flow of 800 cubic



feet (22.7 m<sup>3</sup>) per second in September 1908 (before irrigation began). During the 2002 fish kill, flows of 475 cubic feet (13.5 m<sup>3</sup>) per second were recorded. During September of the 2001 irrigation shut off, an average of 688 cubic feet (19.5 m<sup>3</sup>) per second was recorded.

Stretching from the high desert in southern Oregon to the redwood forests of northern California, the Klamath River Basin covers a vast and diverse area. It once contained over 350,000 acres (1,400 km<sup>2</sup>) of marshes, wet meadows and shallow lakes, major runs of salmon and steelhead, and enormous numbers of migratory birds. Irrigation and development drained some eighty percent of the region's wetlands, with resulting loss of natural water storage, water filtering capacity, and overall biomass. For example, the area's once-mighty flocks of migratory bird and fish runs have similarly declined to fractions of their former size. Large areas of Upper Klamath Lake have been lost to agricultural development, while below Klamath Falls, Oregon, most of Lower Klamath Lake and Tule Lake were also drained for agriculture.

The 230,000 acre (930 km<sup>2</sup>) federal Klamath Reclamation Project manipulates the water storage of the basin, which can hold about 1,100,000 acre feet (1.36×10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>) of spring runoff in Gerber Reservoir, Clear Lake, and Upper Klamath Lake, along with several smaller reservoirs for use irrigation use.

The upper basin water, along with 2,500,000 acre feet (3.08×10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>) diverted from the Trinity, as well as irrigation projects on the Shasta and Scott river tributaries have all lowered the total river flow supporting out-migrating young salmon in spring and in-migrating adult salmon in the fall.

In 2005, PacifiCorp applied to the federal government to relicense its four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath for up to 50 years. Environmentalists opposed the relicensing, arguing that they should be removed to reopen the upper Klamath to salmon. No decision on the matter has been made to date.

Two years of closed-door negotiations between farmers, Indian tribes, fishermen, conservation groups and government agencies have resulted in an unprecedented—and conditional—agreement to work toward a comprehensive settlement of Klamath water usage. The proposal advocates for the removal of four hydroelectric dams now operating along 300 miles (483 km) of the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California, as well as restoration projects.

Significant unresolved conditions of the proposed agreement include:

- Securing nearly a billion dollars in funding over the ten years of implementation
- Pacific Power agreeing on to the proposal
- Funding the cost of dam removal
- Mitigation of environmental challenges of dam removal, e.g., silt behind the dams

#### *Landscape*

The landscape is mountainous and has mixed conifer vegetation. The mid-Klamath is a fire-adapted landscape. Fire historically played a very important role here. It was utilized by the people in land management and occurred naturally every summer and fall.

This area also boasts a huge botanical diversity. There are more species of conifers here than anywhere else. There are also many rare and possibly undiscovered plants in the wilderness areas.



## Housing and Local Resources

### Housing Notes

*Oak Bottom*

The MKWC and Orleans USFS placement sites provide a 3-bedroom house at the Forest Service Wildland Fire Station in Somes Bar (a 15-minute drive from the MKWC office). Since there are three bedrooms and four AmeriCorps members, it is never clear how the housing arrangements will work out. It is possible that one member will find alternative housing within the community and only three members will stay at the house. It is also possible that two people will have to share the big bedroom in the house. This housing is free of charge but it requires some maintenance work and firewood cutting. Staying at the Forest Service housing is a group living situation and means that members might have various visitors staying with members throughout the year. The house is fully equipped with a washer and dryer and 1.5 baths.

*Rentals and  
Worktrades*

There are some rentals and work/trade housing options available, although not many. MKWC often hears of property owners willing to rent to AmeriCorps members and will direct members towards the options they know of. In Year 13, an AmeriCorps member was able to find housing at a cabin in Somes Bar. In Year 14, an AmeriCorps member was able to get a caretaking position at Wild By Nature, the cultural and environmental education site, next door to the Panamnik Building in Orleans.

*Trailer / RV  
Parking*

If members own a trailer or mobile home, there are many places to park in Orleans and Somes Bar. There are two trailer parks in Orleans, the Riverside, on the Klamath side of Hwy 96, and the Pines, near Orleans Elementary School. Many community members offer locations to park and trailer hook-ups on their properties. It is worth asking around early in the year for the possibility of living on some of these gorgeous locations.

### Local Resource Contacts

*MKWC,  
Orleans/Somes  
Bar Fire Safe  
Council*

MKWC is a great resource to call on for information on housing, community events and fire safety and ecology. Since MKWC shares the Panamnik Building with the Orleans/ Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (Coordinated by Will Harling, MKWC Director) Post Office, Klamath Riverkeeper, Klamath-Salmon Media Cooperative and the Klamath Salmon Natural History Library, it has become a busy hub for community activity and the distribution of news. (MKWC 530.627.3202)

*Karuk Orleans  
Office & Clinic*

The Orleans Karuk Office contains both a community multi-purpose room, kitchen, and clinic. The clinic is open to all. (Clinic 530.627.3452)

Adjoining the parking lot is the Native Plant Garden, which contains paths to walk on.

*Salmon River  
Outpost*

The Salmon River Outpost (Somes Bar Store) is the only commercial building in Somes Bar and is expanding. Members can get a PO Box here if members prefer it to Orleans and the post will sometimes leave packages here that cannot reach far out locations. (SRO 530.469.3350)



## Community Information

### Map of Area

The Mid Klamath subbasin is defined as the portion of the Klamath River watershed and its tributary watersheds between Iron Gate Dam and the Trinity River confluence, excluding the Shasta, Scott and Salmon Rivers. Nearly all of this area is in Northern California with a very small amount of subbasin area in Southern Oregon.

The Mid Klamath subbasin is further divided into upper and lower portions. The upper Mid-Klamath includes the main stem and all tributary watersheds between Iron Gate Reservoir and Seiad Creek, excluding the Scott and Shasta Rivers. The lower Mid Klamath includes the main stem and all tributary watersheds between Grider Creek and Weitchpec, excluding the Salmon River. This division is based on climate and land ownership differences within the Mid-Klamath subbasin. The lower, more western portion has a Pacific Maritime influenced climate and is dominated by United States Forest Service lands while the upper, more eastern portion has an Interior and Continental climate and mixed federal and private ownership.



The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) focuses its efforts primarily on the lower portion of the Mid Klamath while its older-sister organization, the Salmon River Restoration Council (SRRC) focuses on the Salmon River watershed.

The MKWC office is located in the Panamnik Bldg in downtown



Orleans. The building is a focal point of a recent effort starting in 2006 to provide Orleans with a community center by 2010. Working for MKWC, members will spend a lot of time working out of Orleans as members cover the normal range of field work from Weitchpec to Happy Camp.



## **Community Demographics**

### *Summary*

The history of the Mid Klamath communities is one of continuous adaptation to radically changing cultural and economic conditions. Through the peaks and troughs of a boom and bust resource extraction economy, residents have managed to sustain themselves on a lifestyle that took advantage of the richness of the natural environment. Many people live here because their families have lived here since time immemorial or for nearly a century (since non-Native settlement). Although many people have found it necessary to move away in order to find work, they often return. Socially, the Watershed Council service area can be described as consisting of tribal members, loggers, miners, environmentalists, outdoor enthusiasts, U.S. Forest Service employees, hippies, back to the land'ers, and young people from out of the area that are often college educated. Many people fall into more than one of those categories.

### *Politics*

While many parts of the Mid Klamath communities are cohesive across boundaries of culture, religion, and income, there is some resentment between Native and non-Native residents, as well as between long-term residents and those that are seen as new comers. There is also tension between those active in the community and those that are individualistic; those that own land and those that will probably never be able to afford land at any point in their life. As in any community, there are always long-time disputes between individuals and between certain families. Generally, the communities identify themselves in terms of the place where they live and take pride in being people of place.

The majority of private lands are along the river corridor at low- to mid-elevations. A considerable amount of the population does not own property, which is a source of conflict. Many residents rent homes or take care of a property for absentee landowners. However, some of the homes remain vacant for a large portion of the year, visited only during fishing season or awaiting the owner to retire to the country. Karuk Tribal members have retained some tribal allotments, but the number is a relatively small percentage compared to the overall watershed acreage. The majority of the land in the service area is managed by the U.S. Forest Service (about 95%).

The goal of the Watershed Council is to create a culture of sustainable resource extraction and market development linked to ongoing restoration efforts. Tribal members may be skeptical of commercial forest uses that are not initiated by tribal planners who understand the effects of management on tribal cultural and subsistence resources located on national forestlands. This connection of both tribal and non-tribal residents to the place where they live and the resources the national forest provides offers both a challenge and an incredible opportunity to organize and implement community-based restoration projects.



## **Community Services**

### *Food*

Getting food in this area can be difficult but not as difficult as one might expect. There are two markets in the area where shoppers can get a variety of items. Downtown Orleans has the Orleans Market which carries many convenience items and a small amount of produce and staple foods. Somes Bar has the Salmon River Outpost which offers specials from its deli and café and stocks bulk staples and produce. Shoppers can find organic and local food there year-round. Neither markets have butchering facilities so fresh beef and pork usually must be purchased on the coast or in Hoopa, although there are frozen items available locally.

This is not to say there is no meat to be found in the area. Many local families run smoke houses where they cure salmon and venison. A number of local farms raise goats and produce milk products and meat for the community. And of course, there's salmon, trout and eel from the rivers.

Local, organic produce can also be obtained by visiting farms directly. Sandy Bar Ranch, Coates Farm, Pierce Farm, Mountain Home Farm and Claudia's Herbs are some of the larger operations that will sell directly to local people if the season is right.

There is one local restaurant - The Mining Co. (aka the café) serves as a motel, bar, restaurant, and laundromat. It is located at the south end of Orleans along Hwy 96.

### *Gas*

McLaughlin & Sons, in downtown Orleans, sells gasoline and services vehicles. A small number of automotive supplies can be purchased there and oil and batteries can be left for recycling. The next-closest gas stations are in Weitchepet and Hoopa.

### *Mail*

There is a US post office in the Panamnik Building in Orleans. PO boxes may also be rented at Salmon River Outpost in Somes Bar.

### *Garbage*

There is an organized garbage pick-up service that runs through Orleans weekly. If members live outside of Orleans, there are transfer stations and dumps located in Orleans, Happy Camp and Hoopa.

### *Recycling*

Many people choose to drive their recycling out of town, usually to the very convenient recycling center in Arcata.

### *Gardening*

There is a community gardening program in Orleans for those who are in need of a garden plot. Contact Alyssa Johnson, who works at the Karuk Clinic, for information on meetings and plot sharing.

### *Computing and Senior Center*

The Community Computer Center in Orleans is located in the Panamnik Center (aka Senior Center) on Asip Rd. by the Mining Co. It is open from 12-5pm Mon thru Thurs.

### *Medical*

There is a clinic at the Orleans Karuk Office Complex on Hwy 96 just north of Orleans. For emergencies that exceed their capabilities, a trip must be made to Hoopa, Willow Creek, Yreka or Arcata (in increasing order of seriousness).

### *Social Services*

Falling right on the Humboldt/Siskiyou border, AmeriCorps must travel either 2 hours southwest to Humboldt Social Services in Eureka or if members are living in Somes Bar, 3 hours northeast to Siskiyou Health and Human Services in Yreka to obtain food stamps or MediCal.



## Entertainment and Community Events

### Resources for Affordable Entertainment Options

*Swimming (Cold Water Refugia)*

What are members going to do when members get off work? Its 95°F outside and members live next to some of the cleanest rivers in all of California! Ask around for the nicest swimming holes. Members will find everything from the jetstream bubbles and cold temperatures of creeks to living cathedrals of rock and river. Go swimming at dusk during the summer time for a juvy feeding ballet.

*Bookmobile*

Are members kidding? No way! All the resources of the Humboldt County Library are available to us through the Bookmobile which comes to the Panamnik Building and Orleans Elementary once per month. Requests can be made by searching the Humboldt Library catalogue and placing requests by phone, internet or by visiting the magical, colorful bus full of books. The Library system also has an up-to-date DVD collection, including Hollywood and Indy flicks.

*Netflix*

Or some kind of video media rental. The markets have rental DVDs, but some prefer the unlimited options of Netflix. Borrow locally pertinent films from Klamath Salmon Media Collaborative.

*Bob & Judy's  
Therapeutic Massage  
and Yoga*

Bob and Judy Beaver run a massage studio out of their home. Judy also runs weekly yoga sessions. Blythe at Sandy Bar Ranch also offers weekly yoga. Ask when they are.

*Rafting*

There are some rafting outfits that run out of Somes Bar and Happy Camp. If members don't get enough rafting through regular work events, float down the Klamath or the Salmon on their own time.

*Gardening and Picking*

There are lots of places around here to bend a green thumb! The native plant garden at the Karuk Office in Orleans can usually use some work. There are also lots of local farms to volunteer at. Some of these farms offer internships to old-AmeriCorps members. If members look hard, members may find old orchards and trees where members can pick the fill (before the bears get them).

*Mushroom Hunting*

There is great mushroom picking in this area, morels, black trumpets, chanterelles, boletes, hedgehogs, matsutakes and more.

*Hiking and Camping*

There are many, many places to hike, camp and fish. The Woolly Ck. trail is quite popular. The hike up to Blackbear Commune is a short enjoyable one. The Marble mountain wilderness, Trinity, Russian, and Siskiyou, and Red Butte wilderness are all quite close, and quite extraordinary.

*Pickup Sports*

Whether it's volleyball, softball, or soccer during the summer, or basketball during the winter, members can usually find a regular pickup game going on somewhere in town at least two nights per week. Oh yeah—and did we mention there's also bi-weekly African Dance lessons?

*Community Band*

If members play an instrument, think about joining the Orleans Community Band. Practice is held once a week and there is a wide variety of talent. The band plays typical band music probably reminiscent of the high school band days. The group is super welcoming!



## Recurring Event List

*Fabulous Food  
Fridays, Happy  
Camp*

Every Friday at five, in Happy Camp at the Art Center, locals get together and enjoy a great meal. A fun tradition that gets great attendance.

*Fish Fair*

The Klamath-Trinity Fish Fair (formerly known as the Hoopa Fish Fair) was started by Chris Hatton, former AmeriCorps member, and has become the largest native education fair in the country! This usually happens in the beginning of June and is a priority for Forest Service, Orleans AmeriCorps. As locals members will also play a big role. It's a really fun event that local students look forward to. See more **Outreach Events** for more info

*Salmon Relay  
Run*

See Outreach Notes in **ISPs and Outreach Events**

*Fish Derby*

Fish Derby is an annual event sponsored and staffed by the Rod & Gun Club and the Forest Service. Local children and their parents travel up to fish lake for a day of trout fishing and receive awards for casting and largest fish. There is also largemouth bass and bluegills caught.

*Ceremonies &  
Dances*

Native American ceremonies occur each year to settle the health of the tribes and to fulfill human responsibilities to the environment around us. These ceremonies may be attended by non-natives who are interested in participating. Listen around for invitations to these events.

*Tribal Reunion*

Each year the Karuk Tribe puts on a tribal reunion. This event includes a raffle, food, music and games and is free to all.

*Weaverville  
Salmon Festival*

Members will probably be required by AmeriCorps to help at this event and members should look forward to it because it's a blast. There is live music, a rocking kids' area with great costumes, heirloom apple tasting and cider demonstration, crafts and delicious salmon, all in downtown Weaverville ("the Weave").

*Klamath  
Watershed Art &  
Music Fest*

KlamWAM for short, this mouthful is a MKWC, SRRC, and Karuk Tribe celebration of fish and local ecology. It occurs some years.

*Klamath Salmon  
Festival*

The Yurok Tribe puts on this event each year. Live music, many crafts and vendors, traditional stick game, and a salmon lunch.

*Old Timers  
Parade*

This parade travels down Hwy 96 through the center of Orleans. Local organizations and businesses put together floats. Judging and antics ensue. This happens on Father's Day.

*Oktoberfest*

This event is a fundraiser for MKWC and is held every other year. Start practicing for the arm wrestling competition. Myanna, MKWC's bookkeeper is reigning champ.



## Helpful Hints

*Moving to  
remote  
California*

The move to Orleans/Somes Bar can be rough, but fortunately with the change in the start date, members will be moving in during a busy field season and will have the opportunity to meet a lot of people. The community here is really amazing, but people hunker down in the winter (or go on vacation for the month), which made it hard for a January start date. Because it is such a small community, people are receptive to getting to know new people. The AmeriCorps program is well known and respected for the work volunteers do. Just be prepared to be referred to as “The AmeriCorps” for the year. Don’t be afraid to talk to people and go to events where members don’t know many people; there are lots of great people here, members just have to get to know them.

## Attachments

**Contact Lists** (posted in the MKWC office)

**Ed Logs & Information** (check MKWC server <MKWC→AmeriCorps ...>)

**ISP Logs & Information** (check MKWC server <MKWC→AmeriCorps ...>)

**Outreach Summaries & Information** (check MKWC server <MKWC→AmeriCorps ...>)

**Site Protocols & Information** (posted in the MKWC office)

**Site Forms** (posted in the MKWC office)